

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Forest Plan Revision Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests



Sierra Cascades Dialogue  
October 15, 2015

Presented by: Beth Boyst  
USFS Pacific Crest Trail Program  
Manager

**email: [bboyst@fs.fed.us](mailto:bboyst@fs.fed.us)**  
**phone: 707-562-8881**



- Overview
- Foundational Legislation/Documents

*Trails for America*, DOI Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 1966

National Trails System Act, 1968

P.C.T. Guide for Location, Design, and Management, 1971

Pacific Crest Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, 1982

Executive Order 13195 *Trails for America*, 2001

- **Forest Planning Direction**

Forest Planning Rule, 2012

Forest Plan Directives, 2014



- **Assessment**

**Scales of Analysis: National, Regional, and Forest**

- **Notice of Intent**





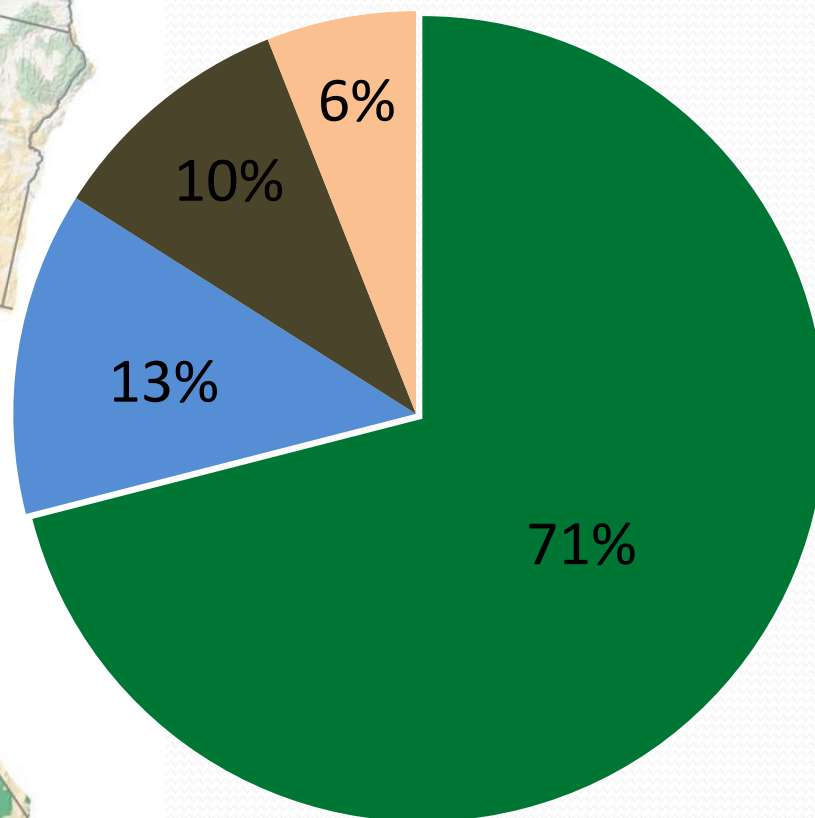
# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



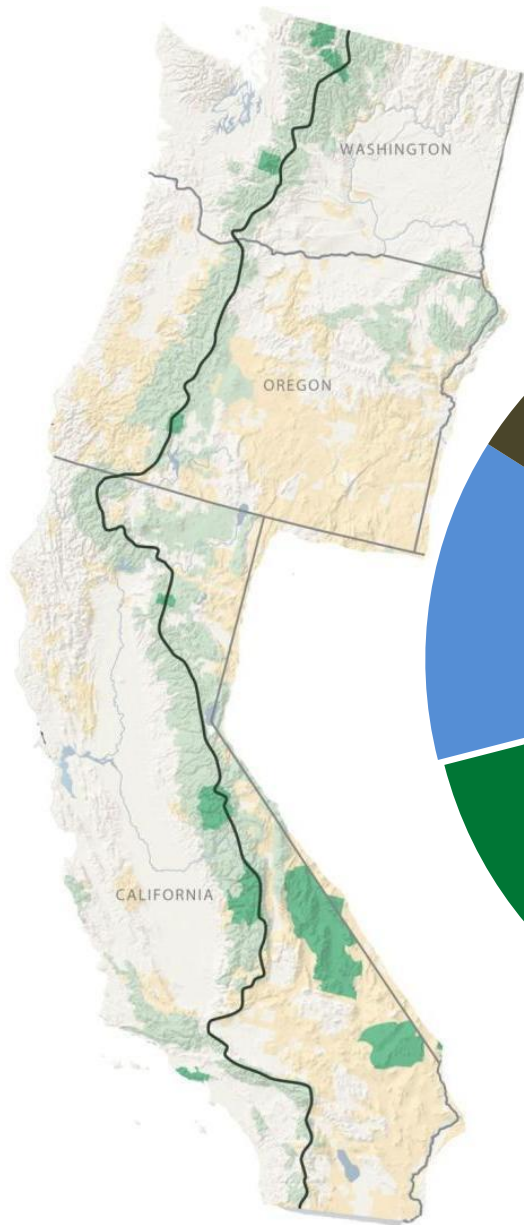
- Designated by Congress in 1968.
- 2,650 miles long traveling through in CA, OR, WA.
- 25 National Forest Units.
- 7 BLM Field Offices.
- 6 National Parks.
- 5 CA State Parks.
- 4 National Monuments.
- 54% in designated Wilderness.



### Pacific Crest Trail Mileage (by land ownership)



- US Forest Service
- Non-federal (State and Private)
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management



# ***Trails for America***

Report on the Nationwide Trail Study



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Outdoor Recreation



The entire length of each national scenic trail, together with sufficient land area on both sides to safeguard adequately and preserve its character, should be protected in some form of public control.



# Key Elements of NTS Act - 1968

## A. Designated National Trail System

### 1) *Designated by Congress:*

National Scenic and  
National Historic Trails

### 2) *Designated by the administration:*

National Recreation Trails  
Side and Connecting Trails



# Key Elements



## B. Purpose:

“To provide for **maximum outdoor recreation** potential and for the **conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities** of the areas through which such trails may pass.”





# Key Elements

C. Sec. 7c:

**Motorized Use:** The use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any national scenic trail shall be prohibited.

**Other Uses:** “which will not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail, may be permitted by the Secretary charged with the administration of the trail.”

# Key Elements

## D. Volunteers and private nonprofit trail groups:



“The Congress recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation's trails. “

# Regulations



## **§ 261.20 Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.**

It is prohibited to use a motorized vehicle on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail without a special-use authorization.

## **§ 212.21 Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.**

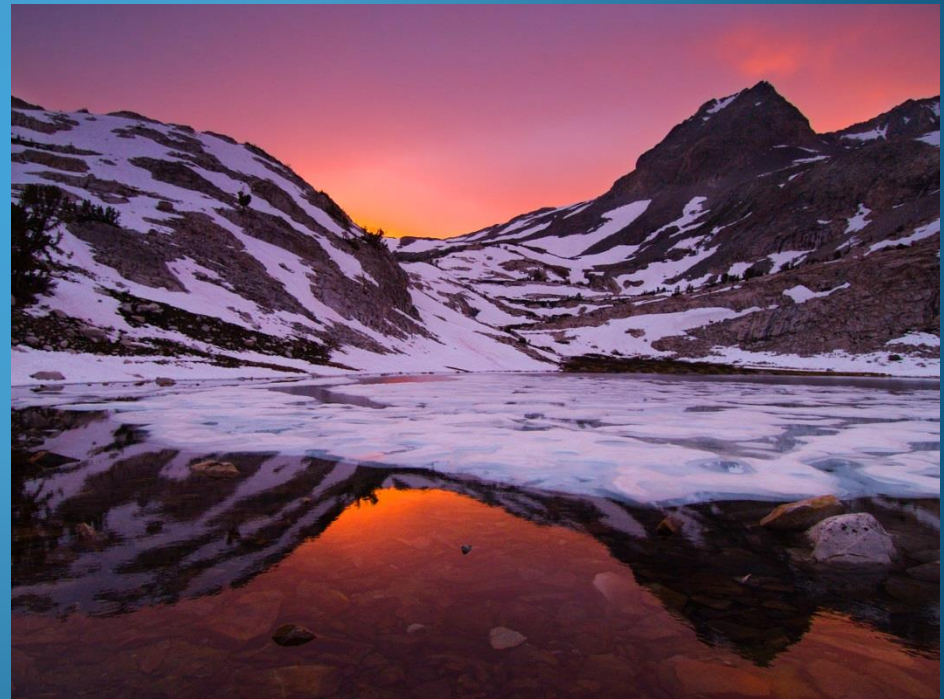
The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as defined by the National Trails Systems Act, 82 Stat. 919, shall be administered primarily as a footpath and horseback riding trail.





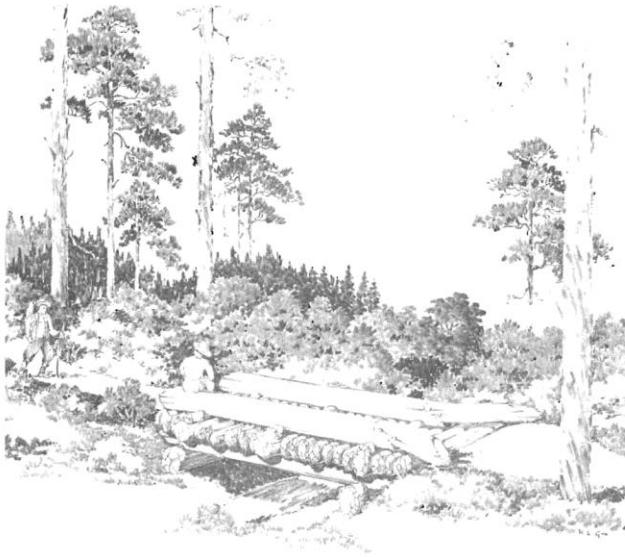
**P.C.T. Guide for Location, Design, and Management** was approved by the federal agencies and published by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1971

**“It should provide travel opportunities for hikers, horseman, and other nonmechanized travelers...”**



# Comprehensive Management Plan

## Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

- Trail use, overuse, and conflicting use.
- The effect of the trail and its use on the management of adjacent land.
- How much private land is needed to protect the trail environment.
- Water scarcity.

## Trails for America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – EO 13195

*Federal Agency  
Duties:  
Protecting the  
trail corridors  
associated with  
national scenic  
trails.... to **ensure**  
**that the values**  
**for which each**  
**trail was**  
**established**  
**remain intact***





# 2012 Forest Planning Rule

***Designated area.*** An area or feature identified and managed to maintain its unique special character or purpose.”



## 2015 Forest Planning Directives (FSH 1909.12)

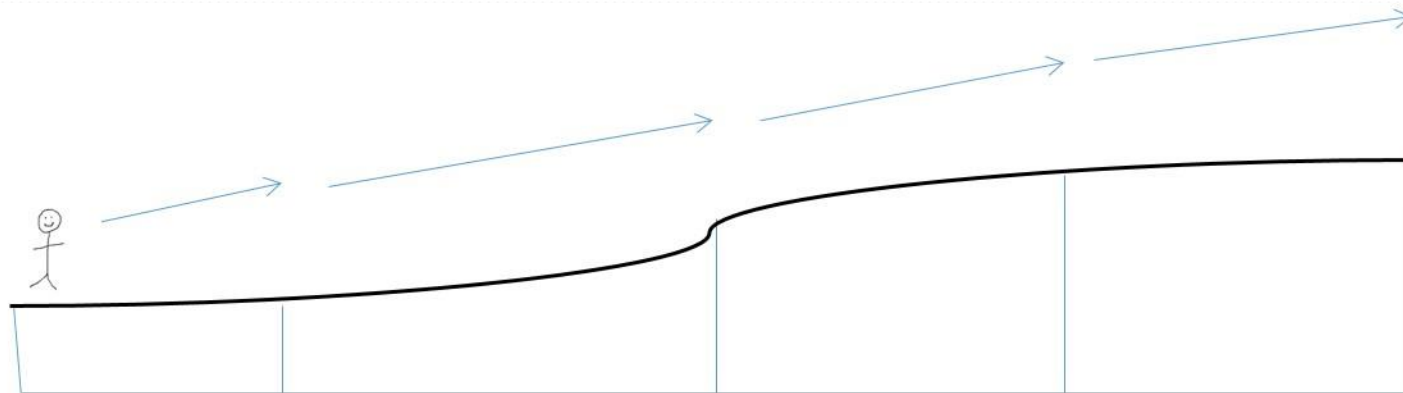
- All designated areas that have been statutorily designated must be **shown on a map** .
- “Plan components must **provide for the nature and purposes** of existing national scenic and historic trails...”
- Should include **desired conditions** that describe the national scenic and historic trail and the recreational, scenic, historic, and other resource values for which the trail was designated.



**What are the resources,  
qualities, values and associated  
settings needed for the P.C.T. to  
protect its unique special  
character and purpose(s)?**



# Distance Zones from the Scenery Management System



**Immediate  
Foreground  
0-300'**

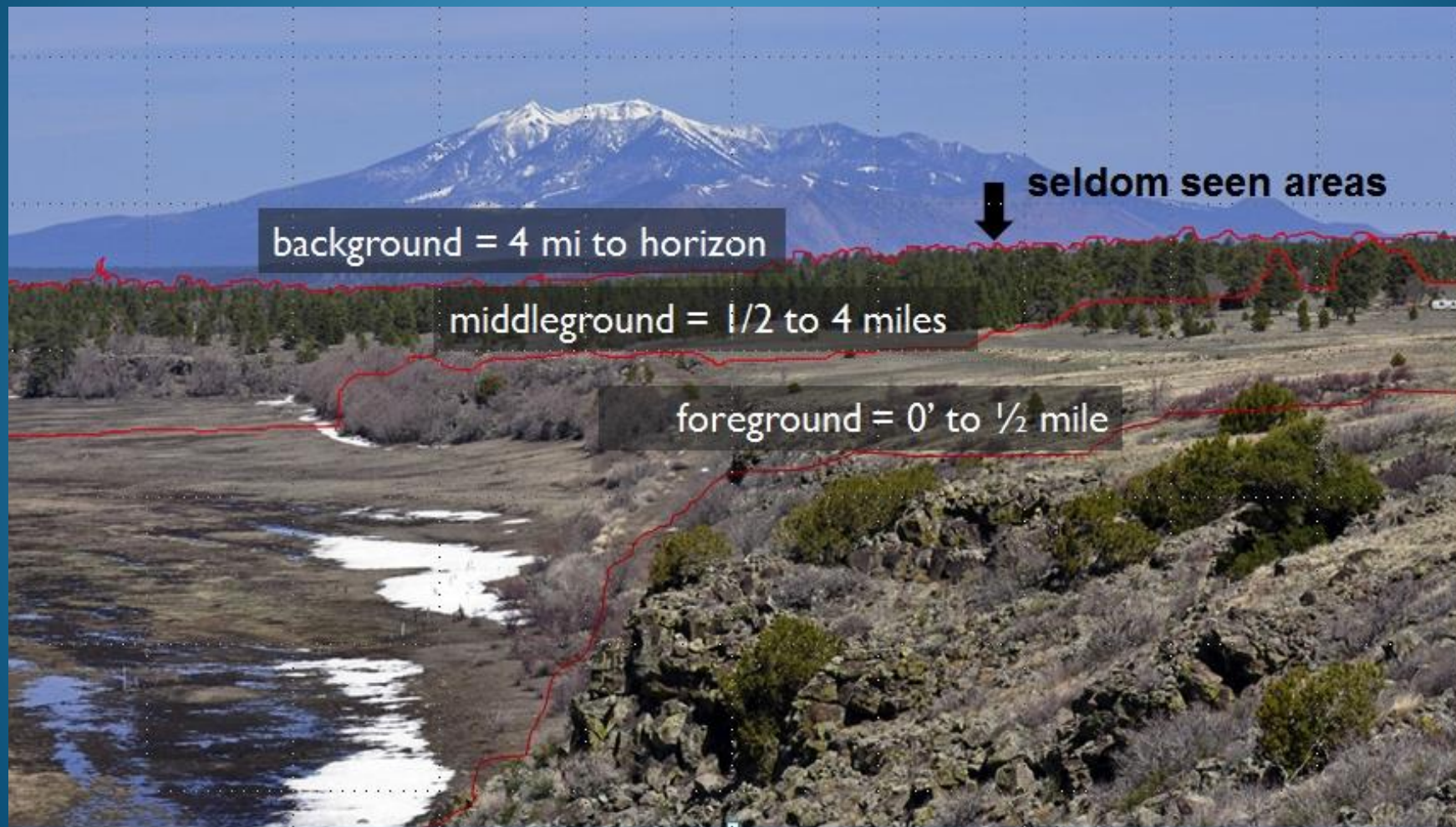
**Foreground  
300' to ½ mile**

**Middleground  
½ to 4 miles**

**Background  
4 miles - horizon**









# Notice of Intent of Proposed Action

The P.C.T. will have a designated corridor established of sufficient width to encompass resources, qualities, values and associated settings and the primary use or uses that are present or to be restored.



**Note: 89% of the P.C.T. in the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests is in designated wilderness.**

## Scope of the Analysis

- Day Use
- Section Use





# Scope of the Analysis

- Entire Trail





# Assessment Topics and Analysis

- Management Area Width
- Recreation Opportunity
- Visitor Use
- Competitive Events
- Scenery Management
- Vegetation Management and Fuels Treatment
- Lands Special Uses

